

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously presented) A process for the reduction of a residual monomer content and enhancement of a wet strength of articles formed from water absorbent crosslinked polymer foams containing units derived from monoethylenically unsaturated acids, which comprises treating the formed articles with at least 0.5% by weight of a polymer containing primary and/or secondary amino groups and having a molar mass of at least 300.

2. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the polymer containing primary and/or secondary amino groups is used in an amount of 0.5% to 80%, by weight.

3. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the polymer containing primary and/or secondary amino groups is a polymer containing primary and/or secondary amino and/or ammonium groups and having a molar mass from 500 to 5 million.

4. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the molar mass of the polymer bearing amino groups is from 1000 to 100,000.

5. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the polymer bearing amino groups comprises polymers containing vinylamine units, polyethyleneamines, polyvinyl guanidine, lysine condensates, and/or polyallylamines.

6. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the formed foam articles comprise water-absorbent crosslinked polymers of acrylic acid.

7. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 wherein the polymer containing primary and/or secondary amino groups is selected from the group consisting of polyethyleneimines, crosslinked polyethylenimines, and amidated polyethylenimines having molar masses M_w of from 500 to ~~3000000~~ 3,000,000.

8. (Currently amended) The process of claim 1 wherein the polymer containing primary and/or secondary amino groups is selected from the group consisting of vinylamine homopolymers, 1-99% hydrolyzed polyvinylformamides, copolymers of vinylformamide and vinyl acetate, vinyl alcohol, vinylpyrrolidone, and acrylamide, each having molar masses M_w of 3000-~~2000000~~ 2,000,000.

9. (Previously presented) An article formed from a water-absorbent crosslinked polymer foam containing units derived from monoethylenically unsaturated acids, and obtainable by the process of claim 1.

10. (Previously presented) The article of claim 9 wherein the article comprises a hygiene article.

11. (Previously presented) The process of claim 1 wherein the polymer containing primary and/or secondary amino groups is used in an amount from 1% to 20%, by weight.

12. (Currently amended) The article of claim ~~11~~ 9 wherein the hygiene article is selected from the group consisting of an infant diaper, an incontinence product, a femcare article, a wound contact material, and a secondary wound dressing.